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VOL. 85 • NO. 12

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## A piece of history

Chris O'Shea (left) Sharon Welton (right) stand next to the newly preserved map of Stephenson County. The map is currently on display at the Lena Area Historical Museum.

## Plant a tree, save the planet with Stephenson County 4-H Forestry Club

Youth who love to be outdoors and explore nature will enjoy this Forestry Club offered by the University of Illinois Extension – Stephenson County 4-H. The Forestry Club will help youth learn to identify trees, how to plant an oak tree properly, and learn about the different by-products that forests provide for their community.

“Research shows that nature provides youth with creativity, discovery, and STEM education. We have a great variety of forest preserves, state parks, and hiking trails here in northern Illinois that we plan to utilize as our classroom for this new club,” states Brenda Heimann, Stephenson County 4-H Program Coordinator.

Stephenson County 4-H is offering this event to youth

grades 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades. Youth do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to participate. The Forestry Club will meet up to six times in the next four to six months and learn all about Forestry. Meetings will be held mostly outdoors and will be throughout the northern Illinois area.

Illinois 4-H offers Forestry as part of its natural resources project area. The 4-H Forestry program drives youth in a positive direction that creates a positive environmental impact. Through this club, youth will gain a sense of leadership and civic engagement as they learn together with adults in their community to help make a difference in rebuilding the numbers of trees across Illinois!

See PLANT, Page 16

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## Pearl City baseball has strength in numbers

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Pearl City Wolves are ready for the 2023 baseball season. Despite coming off a year where the team finished just 9-14, there is plenty of buzz surrounding the Wolves' program. The Wolves lost just two players to graduation in 2022. They were some tough losses, however, as they will look to fill the shoes of Riley Schauer and Tyson Clark, who were both Second Team All-Conference award winners.

Pearl City Head Coach, Ryne Plager, is entering his third year at the helm of the varsity program. It's an exciting year for Plager and the

Wolves as there should be no questions about the players' familiarity with their coach's system. A number of the guys returning this year have multiple years of varsity experience under Plager.

Perhaps the most exciting player to return is Nathan Brinkmeier, who is back for his senior campaign. Last year, Brinkmeier was a First Team All-Conference Pitcher and infielder. According to MaxPreps, Brinkmeier led the Wolves in batting average, hits, runs batted in, home runs, and runs scored last season. The senior was also the team's leading pitcher with a 1.67 earned run average and racked up 73 strikeouts in

just under 38 innings pitched. Brinkmeier allowed just seven walks on the year, as well. Plager has big expectations for Brinkmeier saying, "Nathan will be a top pitcher and hitter in the conference. He led the conference in strikeouts on the mound and home runs at the plate last year, and I expect even more from him this year."

Joining Brinkmeier at the start of every play is returning catcher, Tanner Perdue. Perdue also returns for his senior campaign and can play all over for the Wolves. Last year, Perdue earned a Second Team All-Conference Catcher

See BASEBALL, Page 16



# Obituaries

## DUANE KUPERSMITH

Duane "Kupe" G. Kupersmith, age 91, of Stockton, IL passed away Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at St. Joseph Center in Freeport, IL. He was born on March 15, 1931, in Freeport to the late Adolph and Emma Lena (Grebner) Kupersmith. Duane married Donna Evans on June 26, 1955, at the EUB Church in Stockton.

Kupe was an active member of Calvary United Methodist Church, Grey Beards and Stockton VFW. He was also a FFA Alumni and a huge supporter of the FFA program. His passion was farming. His farm, known as Kuper's Acres, had Grade A Registered Purebred Holsteins. He also loved to grow vegetables of all kinds. He had worked for the Stockton School District, Petras Dental Office, in the pit crews at the Freeport racetrack, and he made donuts for Grandma Lloyds. He also served on the Warren Fair Board. Kupe was an entrepreneur and dreamer who loved to tell stories.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Kupersmith of Stock-



ton; his sons, Bob (Marjorie) Kupersmith of Monroe, WI and Bill Kupersmith of Stockton; his daughters, Barb

Williams of Stockton, Bev (Mike) Williams of Scales Mound, Brenda (Keith) Jakel of Scales Mound and Betty (Jeff) Keuter of Platteville, WI; his 19 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 13 with 3 on the way great great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his mother and father-in-law, Helen and Harry Evans; his brother, Gary; his son-in-law, Barney Williams; and his daughter-in-law, Kelly.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, March 11, 2023, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stockton at 12 p.m. There was a visitation beginning at 10 a.m. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

## JOYCE MICHE

Joyce E. Miche, age 88, of Pearl City, IL passed away Friday, March 10, 2023, at home. She was born in Freeport, IL on Nov. 26, 1934, to the late Harold and Marie (Grinnell) Spangler. Joyce married Duane Miche on Oct. 6, 1956. Duane passed away July 10, 1996.

Joyce graduated from Freeport High School in 1952. She then received her Nurse's Degree from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in 1955. Joyce had worked as a nurse for St. Francis Hospital and Microswitch before retiring in 1996. She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Pearl City. She was a Green Bay Packer and NASCAR fan. Joyce enjoyed travelling with her husband Duane to Washington Island, WI three times a year.

She is survived by her sons, David Miche and Keith



sister, Marsha (Steve) Meindert; and her sister-in-law, Linda Spangler. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her son, Michael; her great grandson; and her brother, Richard.

A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at Hermann Funeral Home in Pearl City, IL at 11 a.m. with a visitation beginning at 9 a.m. Interment will take place at Highland Cemetery in Pearl City. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

# Church news

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the Third Sunday in Lent on March 19. A Worship Service with Holy Communion will begin at 9 a.m. with Pastor Michelle Knight presiding. The service will be available on Livestream on the St. John's Pearl City Facebook Page. Sunday school will be held during church.

The weekly ministry of Healthy Wolves Backpack will continue. Healthy Wolves Backpack has been a weekly ministry of St. John's since April of last year. Backpacks are filled with food and taken to the Pearl City school every Friday. The backpacks are sent home with families for the weekend so that adequate nutrition can be provided for children over the weekend. The families then return the backpack, and they are refilled to be sent home for the next weekend. We currently are serving 41 children through this program. Backpacks are assembled Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in the upstairs youth kitchen. Anyone in the community is invited to help. Visit the St. John's Lutheran Church website for more information on how to volunteer.

On March 22 a mid-week soup supper will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m. A short service will begin at 6:30 p.m. The weekly services will be held in Luther Hall. All community members are welcome.

A Community Family Fun Night will be held March 18

beginning with a potluck at 6 p.m. in Luther Hall. Games and activities for all ages will be held until 8 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass and comfortable clothes. This fun night will be fellowship and fun for all ages. Anyone from the community is invited to attend.

On March 23 there will be cards and dominoes in Luther Hall from 1 to 3:30 p.m. It is open to the public. Come for a good time and good fellowship.

The Christian Education Committee is excited to announce the plan for Vacation Bible School this summer. Community VBS Family Nights will take place on May 7, June 4, July 2, and Aug. 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A meal will be served from 5:00 to 5:20 for families to enjoy. Families may register three-year-olds to fifth graders to participate in Community VBS Family Nights by going to <https://tinyurl.com/stjohnpcvbs>. Sign up by April 10.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is located at 229 S. First St., in Pearl City. To contact the church, call 815-443-2215 for information.

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. On Sunday, March 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. for the Communion Sunday Worship Service. This will be the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Services may be joined in-person or via Facebook Live. The reading will be from John 9:1-41.

On Wednesday, March 22, Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join and no quilting experience is necessary. Come and tie the quilts and make difference in the world.

Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

## Christ Lutheran Church Stockton

The women of Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton will host a soup supper on March 20 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The supper includes chili, beef and noodles, potato soup, ham sandwich, relishes, and dessert. The meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall at Christ Lutheran Church located at 600 North Main Street in Stockton. Carry outs will be available.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Karli Weltzin and her family for help with her medical expenses. For more information contact Judy Brudi at 815-858-3606.



## SANDRA KNUTSEN

Sandra Ellen Knutsen, age 64, of Lena, IL passed away Monday, March 6, 2023, at home. She was born in Rockford, IL to Gene and Rogene (Beck) Martini.

Sandra had worked at Dura for 20 years and bartended at various locations. She had a passion for animals, especially her horse who she loved



to ride. She enjoyed being outdoors, boating and fishing.

She is survived by her mother, Rogene Martini; her significant other, Mike Schiess; her son, Johnnie Maiden; her

daughters, Sheena Reilly, and Candice Knutsen; and her grandchildren, Connor, Raeann, Callie, Alayna, and Anya. She was preceded in death by her father and her grandparents.

No services will be held. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).



**Chris Folmar**  
Financial Advisor

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memories. She left a huge  
impression on me. Her love &  
compassion amazed me and set  
a standard for me.

Now at the age of 35  
I still think of her and miss  
her greatly.  
Her Grandson,  
Chad Quandt

## In loving Memory of ORA Lyons

We do not need a special day to bring  
you to our minds. The days we do not  
think of you are very hard to find. Each  
morning when we awake we know that  
you are gone. And no one knows the  
heartache as we try to carry on. Our  
hearts still ache with sadness and secret  
tears still flow. What it meant to lose  
you, no one will ever know. Our thoughts  
are always with you, your place no one  
can fill. In life we loved you dearly, in  
death we love you still. There will always  
be a heartache, and often silent tears.  
But always a precious memory of the  
days you were here. If tears would make a  
staircase and heartache make a lane, we'd  
walk the path to heaven and bring you  
home again. We hold you close within  
our hearts, and there you will remain, to  
walk with us throughout our lives, until  
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# OPINION



## Slices of life

### Like my cat

This morning I woke up late. I'd planned on an earlier day, but sleep had other plans.

As I got up and got ready for the rest of my day, my cat lounged comfortably under the covers. She made a snoozy sound and curled into herself for some more and much-needed even-later morning sleep. It was at that moment I realized something important.

I want to be more like my cat.

I want to sleep in late, when I feel like it and take a nap later because that feels good too.

But that's only the beginning.

I want to bask in the sunshine. My kitty can find a spot of sunshine in any room at any time any day. When she does, she puts herself smack dab in the middle of it and sets out to do what she does best: relax and soak it all in.

I want to live in the moment. My kitty gets a special treat every day at 4:00, but she doesn't worry about this at 11 a.m. or even 3 p.m. At 11, she is most likely sleeping and at 3 most likely napping. She isn't worried about the treats in her future. She just lives (or sleeps as the case may be) in the moment. When it is treat-time, she enters



By  
**JILL  
PERTLER**  
Columnist

the kitchen with tail held high and happy—a sign of confidence—because that is all that living in the moment requires.

I want to eat the good treats first—at least sometimes. These days my diet focuses on two things: Health and hydration. My kitty hardly ever ponders health. I do that for her. She has healthy cat food and then slightly less healthy treats. She always eats the treats first because they taste better. I get that. I also get health. It's a balance. Between the two of us, we are working on it.

I want to strut my stuff. My kitty walks with her tail held high, clearly proud of her new collar, and especially its bell. It announces her presence in a room and she seems to revel in this power.

I want to purr from deep within, without even knowing why or how this occurs. I want others to know I'm happy because my joy resonates so loudly that it can't be ignored.

See CAT, Page 7

## Letter to the editor

### Results of investigation regarding student incident

At the end of September 2022, my office was made aware by the Stockton Police Department (SPD) of allegations regarding an incident among several members of the Stockton JV football team during a practice on Sept. 27, 2022. As SPD investigated the allegations, which at that early stage were only thirdhand, SPD followed

established protocols that are in place for investigating the type of allegations rumored to have occurred and the victim was interviewed in accordance with those protocols.

Chief Kevin Stewart requested, and I agreed, to seek the assistance of the Illinois State Police (ISP) to conduct further investigation. ISP Zone 2-Rockford Investigations agreed to do so. They presented the results of their investigation to me recently. Based on the allegations that were rumored to have occurred, I

can understand the Stockton community's interest in seeing that the incident was investigated thoroughly.

However, after a thorough investigation, the evidence does not match the initial allegations from third parties. Accordingly, after reviewing what was presented to me and speaking with the victim's family, I do not believe criminal charges are appropriate in this matter.

Further, ISP investigators and I agree that Stockton PD handled the potential criminal investigation appropriately and professionally before it

was ultimately turned over to ISP at Chief Stewart's request. I appreciate the work that both the Stockton Police and the Illinois State Police put into this investigation.

Finally, we must not forget that there was a victim at the center of the allegations. I commend the victim and their family for their bravery, honesty, and cooperation with the investigation. They have expressed to me their desire to put this matter behind them. I hope the community honors those wishes, as well.

Chris Allendorf  
State's Attorney

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# Analysis: State revenue projections increase again in fiscal year's final stretch

## \$575 million increase gives Pritzker leeway in budget talks as fears of recession persist

By Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

With two months to go before the adjournment of Illinois' spring legislative session, Gov. JB Pritzker's state budgeting task may have gotten easier.

The Commission on Government Forecasting Accountability increased its revenue estimate for the current fiscal year by \$575 million—yet another positive development in a monthslong streak of revenue growth.

The commission is a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers and is staffed by non-partisan economic analysts.

"You can see in every single month so far this fiscal year we've actually had a gain where we've generated more revenue in this fiscal year compared to the same time a year ago," Eric Nogge, senior revenue analyst for COGFA, said at the commission's March 7 meeting.

All told, COGFA anticipates revenues for the fiscal year that ends June 30 to exceed original estimates by \$5.5 billion, rising to a record \$51.9 billion.

Much of that surplus has already been appropriated. Lawmakers allocated at least \$3.6 billion supplemental spending package in its January lame duck session, and Pritzker proposed spending another \$490 million by the end of the fiscal year when presenting his proposal for next year's budget last month.

COGFA's new estimate for the current fiscal year is \$545 million beyond the amount assumed by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in Pritzker's budget proposal.

COGFA is also projecting stronger revenues in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 than the most recent estimate from GOMB. The \$50.4 billion COGFA estimate marks an increase of \$465 million beyond the revenues the governor proposed.

Nogge noted that COGFA's estimate was higher than GOMB's because the commission had an extra half of January and all of February to factor into its projections. Because base revenue growth remained strong over that span, the commission was able to increase the estimate. That drove up the current year base revenues, which in turn drove up estimates for next fiscal year.

In recent years, lawmakers have directed surpluses to retiring debts early, increasing payments to the state's pension system and to long-term savings.

For the upcoming fiscal year, Pritzker has proposed added spending across state government—especially on child care and education—while adding an extra \$200 million to the pension fund.

Read more: Pritzker lays out \$49.6 billion spending plan

The March 7 update could give the governor additional breathing room to usher his budget through the General Assembly and—if the past is any guide—potentially increase pension contributions or long-term savings.

Nogge said the expected growth was driven by strong performances in the state's base tax revenue sources—corporate and personal income tax and sales tax driven higher by inflation.

The good revenue news in

COGFA's March update was the continuation of a nationwide state revenue boom which the Pew Charitable Trusts predicted last month could be reaching an "inflection point."

That report was highlighted by the Illinois Department of Revenue in its testimony to a House committee recently. Pew calculated Illinois' post-2020 revenue growth at 10.8 percent over what it was expected to be based on pre-pandemic trends. That put Illinois at the third-best growth of all states.

Still, IDOR, GOMB and COGFA are all in general agreement that a recession is on the horizon—or at least they are relying on outside economic forecasts that predict such a scenario.

While IDOR's presentation last week noted a recession could occur in the first two

quarters of the current calendar year, COGFA and GOMB had a different take.

"So far, we're just not really seeing that looking at our income tax data and our sales tax data and the jobs numbers," COGFA Chief Economist Benjamin Varner said at the March 7 meeting. "Now, tax receipts obviously probably lag economic activity a little, but so far, we think the slowdown is probably going to be a little later in the year."

COGFA's report noted other factors that could change the state's revenue outlook moving forward. Among them are the possibility of another COVID-19 resurgence, a worsening of the war in Ukraine, and the impacts of inflation and further possible interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve.

But the report also noted that its \$575 million upward revision was "very cautious," based on the fact that final income tax receipts could drastically alter the revenue landscape.

Final payments were "especially strong" in the previous fiscal year due to an influx of capital gains taxes amid a booming stock market. But that pace has slowed, leading to the cautious approach, COGFA said.

"The market conditions have been not as strong in tax year 2022, so we're anticipating final income tax payments to drop during this last quarter of Fiscal Year 2023," Nogge said. "But we still have had strong wages, we've had strong personal income...And so we think that they're going to offset each other a little bit. The question is how much is there going to be a decline in the remainder of Fiscal Year 2023?"

See ANALYSIS, Page 7

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# • Church news (Continued from page 2)

## Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for a service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, Illinois, this Sunday, March 19 2023,

at 10 a.m. The Adult Sunday School will be hosted prior to service, starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday School is held during church service at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Break-

fast Bunch will be meeting Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at 8 a.m. at the Stella's Café, 100 N Main St, Stockton, Freeport, Illinois. All are welcome to join.

On the first Wednesday of each month, Salem Unit-

ed Church of Christ hosts a Men's Night. On these evenings the men meet at 6:30 p.m. at the church in fellowship hall on the lower level for a time of visiting, playing games, and getting to know each other. On the

third Wednesday of each month from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., Salem hosts a Crafternoon's at the church on the lower level. Everyone is invited to come and work on crafts. There will be snacks, a brief devotional thought,

and plenty of time to share projects with one another. For more information on these gatherings, contact salemwingsofjoy@yahoo.com.

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## •Cat (Continued from page 3)

I want to land on my feet. Cats have an uncanny ability to jump from high places and consistently and conveniently land on all fours. I want to conquer any adversity in my path and come out on the other end still standing.

I want to keep it neat, complete and inside the litter box.

Cats know and recognize some of the basic tenets of life - like pooping. They don't get all messy with their urination or defecation. We all have messiness in our lives. Cats understand this and keep it contained - in a box. I'd love to take all of the messy

aspects of my life and box them up.

On the flip side, my cat thinks outside the litter box. She loves to look out the windows to the outside world. Her inside world is only enhanced by the world outside - even if it is safer for her to view it from behind a pane of glass.

This doesn't deter her. Not in the least. She still quivers at the sight of a squirrel or bird. She hunts them without hunting, but at the same time with the wildness of a lioness. It's a sight to see. Her imagination and resourcefulness are to be

admired.

When given the chance, she embraces the chance to be outdoors, beyond the glass, in the truest sense. She's been known to track mice, snakes, birds, squirrels and any critters worth crittering with near reckless abandon. I appreciate her passion and love of adventure.

I want to think outside the box and pursue adventure whenever the door is open—or whenever given the chance.

I want to be honest and unapologetic in all that I do. My cat doesn't fake it. If she loves you, she lets you

know—wholeheartedly. If she harbors disdain for you, well, ditto. She is either all-in or all-out and there is no guessing about where she stands. She isn't a people pleaser, yet she pleases me all the time. She walks the line without ever walking the line, and I love her for her honesty.

That, and her gorgeous collar.

*Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

## •Analysis (Continued from page 4)

All three fiscal forecasting entities have also agreed on another thing in recent months: forecasting has been difficult in an era marked by

the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented levels of government stimulus.

"We keep expecting that slowdown's going to hap-

pen," Noggle said at the end of the COGFA meeting. "But it just hasn't happened yet."

Jerry Nowicki is the bureau Chief of Capitol News Illi-

nois, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide.

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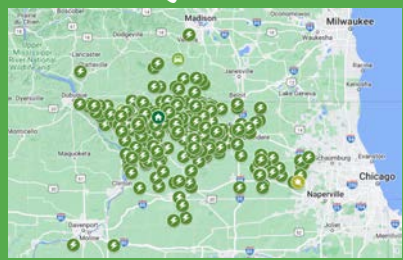


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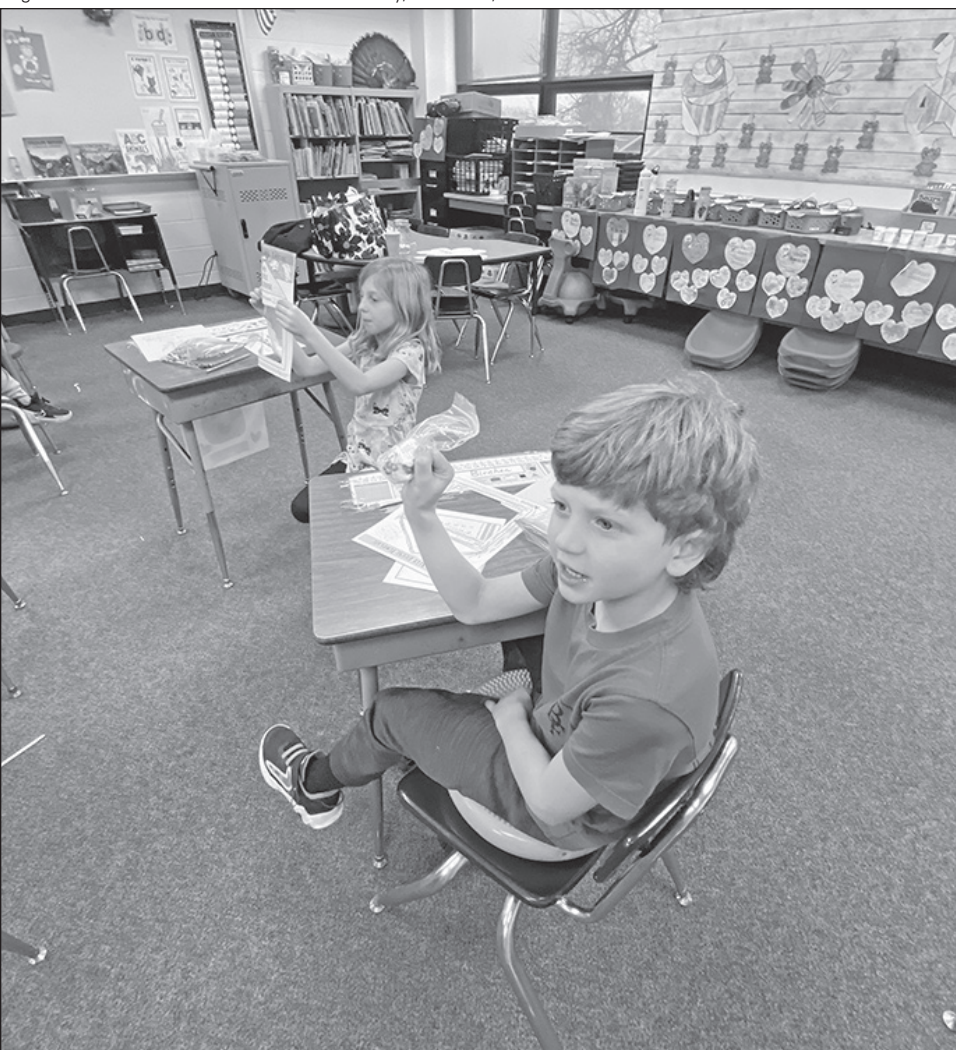
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## Soybeans for all!

Students in Mrs. Merboth's second grade classroom enjoyed learning all about soybeans. Students were able to plant soybean seeds and see them sprout during Agriculture in the Classroom. Pictured are Hawkin Birchen and Jasmine Rauch as they excitedly share their sprouting soybeans.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



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# Pearl City students have a lot of heart!

Pearl City Elementary physical education classes participated in the February at Home Heart Challenge. The classes who earned the most donations got to "pie" Miss Collins in the face. The leading classes included Mrs. Pauley's third grade class in first, Mrs. Robinson's second grade class in second, and both the first graders and Mrs. Teske's third grade class tied for third. Great job to all the students who built heart healthy habits last month and thank you to Ms. Collins for being such a great sport and motivator for all the students! Pictured is second grader Elle Daiker as she pies Ms. Collins in celebration.



(Left) Tate Tessendorf consoles Ms. Collins after being "pied" by the second grade class.



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## Panther softball to rely on varsity experience

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow varsity softball team will be hoping for better results in 2023 after the team finished 9-14 last year. Le-Win head coach, Ryan Hahne, is entering his third year at the helm of the program. After six years of being an assistant coach for the Panthers, there will be no more questions about Hahne's experience at the top of the program. Three years in, most of this squad knows nothing but having Hahne as the head coach.

The hope is that comfort and all around experience will lead to some improvements on the field in 2023. The Panthers lost just one starter to graduation last year in Kamryn Cain. With six returning starters, Le-Win will look for that experience to give them an advantage in games. "This year we will be relying on girls with varsity experience," Hahne said adding, "Emma Kempel, Kieran Madigan, and Hailee Schiess will be providing valuable senior leadership, all of whom have contributed at the varsity level for the last two years."

While the Panthers look to rely on experience and senior leadership, that isn't to say the team is lacking talent. Rachael Setterstrom is back for her sophomore year after being named Honorable Mention All-State as a freshman. Setterstrom led the team with a .474 batting average, 36 hits, four homeruns, and 15 runs batted in. She was also one of the team's top pitchers with 36 strikeouts in 51 innings pitched. Hahne spoke highly of the sophomore, saying she "will be leading us offensively. [Setterstrom] will also pitch some games for us this year." If Setterstrom can continue to develop under the senior leadership, the Panthers will have a special talent for years to come.

Joining Setterstrom is fellow sophomore, Maddy Chiles, who also gained plentiful varsity experience as a freshman. Chiles pitched a majority of the innings for the Panthers in 2022. In just over 73 innings, Chiles racked up 70 strikeouts, while allowing just 35 walks. Chiles is expected to carry a heavy load again in 2023 as Hahne said, "Chiles will pitch most of our innings this year." Hahne was pleased with Chiles' progression as he explained, "[Chiles] started to pitch really well at the end of her freshman year."

The Panthers will look to their junior class to take a step forward. "Aspen Roberts, Morgan Gerber, Ava Fiedler, and Faith Offerman will be valuable to us both offensively and defensively," Hahne said on the group.

A majority of Le-Win's losses came in conference play in 2022. The Panthers finished with a record of just 3-7 in NUIC-North play. With a conference loaded with talent, the overall record doesn't tell the whole story. Hahne expects another tough conference outlook in 2023. "I think that Orangeville, Dakota, and Durand will be battling for the top team in the conference," Hahne said, adding, "I think our team has a great chance to compete with these other teams, as well. The talent level in our conference is very strong and any team will have a chance to win on any night."

If the weather allows it, the Panthers are set to open their 2023 season on Thursday, March 16 when they play host to Stillman Valley.

# Preserving a historic map at the Lena Historical Museum

Another couple of years and an invaluable local artifact might have been reduced to dust. A historic county map that is larger than the heights and arm spans of most visitors was in danger of no longer remaining useful.

The Lena Area Historical Society (LAHS) is in possession of a rare map of Stephenson County. It was printed in 1859 by H.F. Walling Company of New York. and is very large - 54" x 58". It details all the townships, roads, waterways, and railroad lines of the county just before the Civil War. It also shows the names of landowners, has detailed maps of Freeport, Lena, and many other small towns, and lists the businesses in those towns. It is the oldest printed map of the county and contains a wealth of historical information. Although other copies of this map exist, the LAHS is the only museum in Stephenson County to have one on display for the public

to see.

The map was donated to the museum years ago by Raymond Lapp and he preserved it for decades in a manner that seemed best at the time. Unfortunately, the front acrylic glazing was pieced together due to enormity of the artifact. Also, it was backed with raw plywood, and nails were used to secure the glazing. The migration of acid from the plywood over the years had caused damage to the map, including discoloration and brittleness. The historical society board knew that if this problem wasn't fixed soon, the map would eventually disintegrate. They also understood that this would be an expensive project because of the size of the map.

Thanks to a recent donation to the museum, the LAHS was able to start the project. The project was spearheaded by LAHS board member Sharon Welton, also director of the Stephenson County Histori-

cal Museum and past director of the Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, then located in Mt. Carroll. Welton enlisted the volunteer aid of a friend, Christine O'Shea, a former Campbell Center instructor who had recently retired from her position as an assistant conservator at the Art Institute of Chicago. O'Shea was able to order the custom size acrylic with UV filtering and have it shipped to Lena. Other archival materials were also purchased to provide the map with the safest framing material possible.

O'Shea, along with Welton, took several crucial steps. The first step was to lay the frame flat to remove the back and the nails. The map was then carefully removed from that plywood back. This is when the team realized that the deterioration was worse than expected; small pieces had started flaking off. All of this had to be repaired with a special conservation paper and paste.

While the map was out of the frame, it was photographed so that the map can now be used digitally for research.

The next step was to put the new acrylic glazing in the frame. After that, the map was backed with layers of archival materials to make sure it was protected, and moisture could not penetrate it. The back was then sealed with framing tape to make it airtight.

The project took two people over 12 hours to complete, plus two volunteers to do the photography. In the end, the map does have some areas of lost information; however, that detail can be electronically repaired by linking another digital copy at the Library of Congress. This copy has preserved those portions but has other losses that the Lena Museum map still retains. For its age, the copy on display at the Lena Area Historical Museum is still very readable. Board members hope it will now be around for another 150 years.

## 2023 4-H Leadership Conference offered

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, from 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m., University of Illinois Extension will be hosting a youth leadership conference at the District 1 Police Station located at 1045 W. State Street, Rockford, Illinois.

This conference is open to all youth in Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties. Learn and engage with a variety of local adult and youth leaders in Winnebago County. The conference is sponsored by a memorial in the name of University of Illinois Extension former employee, Tom Schingoethe. Many of you may remember Tom as the county director of the Winnebago County office

and when he became the Associate Director of the Northwest Region that would finish out his 40-year career with extension. A pizza lunch will be served. Register at go.illinois.edu/youthleadershipconference.

"Youth are going to come away with a lot of information on what inspires someone to get into leadership and to help their community; as well as learning from their peers on how to get started in leadership", stated Kelly Lafferty,

4-H Youth Development Educator for University of Illinois Extension-Unit 1. "Youth will be engaged and will learn from all sorts of leaders with different leadership skills—it's really going to be a fun conference."



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# Community partners teaming up for kidney and health screening day

SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group is teaming up with the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois and community group partners to provide a free kidney and health screening day on April 26, 2023. This screening event will be held at the Freeport Public Library, 100

E. Douglass Street, Freeport, IL, from 10am-2pm. Any community members interested in getting screened for kidney disease, high blood pressure or diabetes is encouraged to attend. Glaucoma and hearing screening will also be offered as well as additional information on various health

resources. The kidney screening will be offered by the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois' Kidney Mobile, the nation's only custom mobile unit that travels across the state screening individuals for kidney disease and its two main causes: diabetes and high blood

pressure. After the screening, attendees will be able to talk privately with a nurse or doctor about their results. Appointments for the kidney screening portion are not required but available. To schedule, please visit mobile-screening.nkfi.org/preregistration.

## News briefs

### Carroll County Help Center Thrift Shop

The Carroll County Help Center Thrift Shop is offering a Luck of the Irish Sale on Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18. All winter wear is ½ price. Hours are Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Thrift Shop is located at 126 South 4th St. Savanna.

### Blackhawks Unit of Home Extension meeting

The March meeting of Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension will be held March 16, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Roll call will be

answered by "Share something Irish". Kim Plantz will give the lesson on *Impact of Substance Use Disorder on Family*. Ruth Ann Jordan and Plantz will bring raffle items. Meetings are open to all who wish to join for information and fellowship.

### McConnell American Legion Auxiliary

The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary monthly meeting will be held on March 15, 2023, at the McConnell Legion. Social time will begin at 5 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. Please note the starting time for this meeting is 30 minutes earlier than previously scheduled meetings. All are welcome to attend. Please contact mcconnellauxiliary@gmail.com with any questions.

### Stockton CWA to host guest speaker

**Dr. DeeDee Wampfler**  
The Stockton Concerned Women for America (CWA) is pleased to announce a guest speaker for the Wednesday, March meeting at 2 p.m. Dr. DeeDee Wampfler will return to give part 2 of her presentation given on Feb. 8. The meeting is at Calvary Church at the corner of Rush and Maple streets, just south of the Middle School. New attendees are welcome.

### Pearl City School District pre-school registration

Pearly City School District is opening registration for preschool-aged children

ages two and a half, three or four years. If interesting in enrolling a child, please call 815-443-2715 to schedule a screening appointment or for further information.

## Salvation Army delivery service program to launch this Spring

*To Your Door* pantry delivery service is a referral-based program starting this spring. The Salvation Army of Freeport and The Freeport Area Church Cooperative are joining forces to provide a valuable option for neighbors in the community unable to visit a local pantry or grocery store.

Along with DoorDash, these pantry deliveries will fill in the gap where services may sometimes be difficult to access. Pantry availability in the area is met via numerous sources, however, many situations for a neighbor require a different solution. By working with community partners such as medical and social services, the program will be able to deliver a pantry when a need occurs.

The Salvation Army of Freeport and FACC will provide this ministry free to neighbors and look forward to working with every community advocate to assist in serving in this new capacity.

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Last week I mentioned Thursday and weather, and I spoke too soon because this Thursday brought another snowstorm. Maybe we are getting better at dealing with them because this one dumped a lot of snow, but we recovered better. Our winter loves to keep giving us surprises. This week ushers in St. Patrick's Day, and the recipes this week are a tribute to the "wearer of the green!" Have a great week of cooking.

## Lime Gelatin Salad

Since the theme for this week is green, a Jell-O salad must be featured. This salad is pretty and has a tangy flavor. It is easy too!

2 pkg. (3 oz. each) lime gelatin  
2 C. boiling water  
1 qt. lime sherbet  
1 carton (8 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed

In a large bowl, dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Beat in sherbet until melted. Fold

in Cool Whip until well blended. Pour into an 8-cup ring mold coated with cooking spray. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or until set. Unmold onto a serving platter. Garnish with lime slices. You can also make this in a pretty glass bowl if you don't have a mold.

## Sautéed Cabbage

This vegetable is green, but not a traditional one. It is, however, one that is often served on St. Patrick's Day. The traditional cabbage dish for St. Pat's is red cabbage, but this recipe is easy to make. Have a taste of green cabbage this year.

1 small head of green cabbage including green leaves (2½ lbs.)

2 T. unsalted butter  
¾ t. salt  
½ t. pepper

Cut the cabbage in half and with the outside down, slice it as thick as possible around the core, as though you were making coleslaw. Discard the core. Melt the butter in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the cabbage, salt and pepper and sauté for 10 to 15 minutes until cabbage is tender and begins to brown. Season to taste and serve warm

## Corned Beef and Cabbage with Herb Buttered Potatoes

Corned Beef and cabbage are a traditional way to celebrate the "luck of the Irish" and this recipe is easy because it is made in the crock pot. It also uses apple cider which helps make the corned beef tender and delicious.

3 lbs. corned beef brisket with spice packet

2 carrots, cut into 2-inch pieces

2 medium onions, chopped  
1 small head green cabbage, cored and roughly chopped

2 C. apple cider  
1 C. water

### Potatoes

1½ lbs. baby red potatoes, sliced in ½ inch pieces

½ stick butter, softened

1 t. chopped garlic

2 T. chopped fresh parsley

Salt and pepper

Put the carrots and onions in the bottom of a slow cooker and place the corned beef on top. Arrange the cabbage around the beef. Add the apple juice and water along with the spice packet. Cook on Low 6 to 8 hours until the beef is tender. Remove the beef and vegetables to a platter and keep warm.

Potatoes: Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and

add the potatoes. Cook until the potatoes are tender, about 12 to 15 minutes. Drain and return them to the pot. Add the butter, garlic, parsley, salt, and pepper and gently combine so that the potatoes are evenly spaced. Stir and warm potatoes for several minutes. Place on serving platter with corned beef.

## Seafood Casserole

Since we are offering a Lenten dish, the St. Patrick's Day recipes will have a moment's rest. This is a seafood casserole complete with rice and good seasonings.

1 pkg. (6 oz.) long grain

and wild rice

1 lb. frozen crabmeat, thawed, or 2½ C. canned lump crab meat, drained

1 lb. cooked shrimp, peeled, deveined, and cut into ½ inch pieces

2 celery ribs, chopped

1 medium onion, finely chopped

½ C. finely chopped green pepper

1 can (4 oz.) mushroom stems and pieces, drained

1 jar (2 oz.) diced pimientos, drained

1 C. mayonnaise

1 C 2% milk

½ t. pepper

Dash of Worcestershire sauce

¼ C. dry breadcrumbs  
Cook rice according to package directs. Preheat the oven to 375. In a large bowl, combine the crab, shrimp, celery, onion, green pepper, mushrooms, and pimientos. In a small bowl, whisk mayo, milk, pepper, and Worcestershire sauce; stir into the seafood mixture. Stir in rice.

Transfer to a 9 x 13 baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake, uncovered, until bubbly, 40 to 50 minutes. Serve immediately.

See KITCHEN, Page 15

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## 320 +/- FARM LAND REAL ESTATE AUCTION

### JOANNE LANCASTER TRUST

Property Location: 23716 Dry Bone Road, Shullsburg, WI 53586

Seymour Township – Lafayette County

Auction: Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Starting at 2:30 pm

Auction Conducted at Darlington Inn – 201 Christensen Dr, Darlington, WI, 53530

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.POWERSAUCTION.COM](http://WWW.POWERSAUCTION.COM)



Featuring 320 +/- Acres of Productive Farmland with a House & Buildings. Crop Land is 83% Tillable, The Overall Corn Growers PI is 65.2%. Soil Types Include: Palsgrove, New Glarus, Ashdale, Dodgeville, Orin.

Property will be sold in four parcels – **No Buyers Premium -All Terms Day of Auction.**

**Crop Land is Currently Rented for the 2023 Season.**

OPEN HOUSE MARCH 17, 2023 – FROM 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



110 E Murray St  
Browntown, WI 53522  
(608) 439 – 5760

#91



11875 HWY 20 East  
Stockton, IL 61085  
(815) 947-9040 or (815) 266-

## 117 +/- FARM LAND REAL ESTATE AUCTION

### JOANNE LANCASTER TRUST

Property Location: North Canyon Park Rd, Stockton, IL 61085

Rush Township – Jo Daviess County

Auction: Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Starting at 10:30 AM

Auction Conducted at Woodbine Bend Golf Course – 3500 E Center Rd, Stockton, IL 61085

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.POWERSAUCTION.COM](http://WWW.POWERSAUCTION.COM)



Featuring 117 +/- Acres of Productive Farmland. The overall PI is 106.7 on 109 Tillable Acres – Over 93% Tillable.

The Balance of 8 acres is non-Tillable. Soil Types Include: Greenbush, Massbach, Loran, Beaucoup, Eleroy

Property will be sold in one parcel – **No Buyers Premium -All Terms Day of Auction.**

**Crop Land is Currently Rented for the 2023 Season**

433693



110 E Murray St  
Browntown, WI 53522  
(608) 439 – 5760

#441-000132



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# LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**  
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust  
**PLAINTIFF**  
Vs.  
Melanie Lewin; et. al.  
**DEFENDANTS**

No. 2022FC36  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 12/20/2022, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on April 20, 2023 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

**LOT 13 IN WINTER HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25 AND THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 16, 1954 IN BOOK "F" OF PLATS, PAGE 5 AND A CORRECTED PLAT RECORDED IN BOOK "F" OF PLATS, PAGE 49. SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**

**PIN 18-13-36-108-017**  
Improved with Single Family Home  
**COMMONLY KNOWN AS:**  
1486 Winter Drive  
Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipi-

ality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

**IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCOR-**

**DANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.**

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-22-03879. I3214900

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 8, 15 & 22, 2023)  
433790

## Annual Town Meeting Notice is Hereby Given

To the legal voters, residents of the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson in the State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place on:

Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
at 6:00 p.m.

at  
Loran Township Building  
Located at  
215 E. South St.  
Pearl City IL.

For the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said township; and after a Moderator has been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures, as may, in the pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

1. 2022 - 2023 Financial Report
2. Resolutions Presented
3. Transfer of Funds
4. Sale of Surplus Property
5. Special Financial Requests
6. 2023 Annual Town Meeting date and time

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 2023)  
434155

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024. It will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City. It is available from and after May 9, 2023. Please call

ahead at 815-443-2880.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 12, 2023 at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City and final action will be taken by the Board of Trustees at this meeting.

Deb Foust  
Loran Township Clerk

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023 and ending March 31, 2024 It will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City. It is available from and after May 9, 2023. Please call ahead at 815-443-2880.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 13, 2023 at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City and final action will be taken by the Board of Trustees at this meeting.

Deb Foust  
Loran Township Clerk  
(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 2023)  
434156

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LORAN TOWNSHIP OF STEPHENSON COUNTY

For the Fiscal year of 2023 - 2024 Loran Township's regular board meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the following location: Loran Township Building, 215 E. South Street, Pearl City, IL.

Deviations from this schedule will be posted per Township requirements.

Deb Foust  
Township Clerk  
(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 2023)  
434157

## LORAN TOWNSHIP NOTICE FOR BID

Public Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Loran Township, Stephenson County, Illinois will receive bids

for mowing and trimming at Babbs Grove Cemetery, Grace ME Cemetery, Lieboldt Union Cemetery, and our Township buildings. All bids are to be received on or before April 1, 2023. Requirements consist of mowing, trimming, and cleaning all monuments only on an as needed basis, and before holidays like Memorial Day. Each bid should include the amount for the 3 cemeteries and the amount for the Township Building grounds separately. Use of chemicals is prohibited. Proof of insurance will need to be included. The Board of Trustees will open bids at the April 11, 2023 meeting. Notice will only be given to the accepted bidder. Payment will be monthly and only when an invoice is provided to the Loran Township office at 215 E. South St., Pearl City, IL 61062 or calling (815) 443-2880. Loran Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 2023)  
434158

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT ILLINOIS**  
AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Angela M. Figueroa  
Defendants.

Case No. 2022FC1  
708 North Hunt Avenue,  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Judge David M. Olson  
**NOTICE OF SALE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on June 21, 2022, Steven M. Stovall will on April 20, 2023, at the hour of 9:30AM at the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office, Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Lots 10, 11 and 12 in Block 7 in Johnson Wheel Company's Plat of West Freeport. Situated in the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois.

Commonly known as 708 North Hunt Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

Parcel Number(s): 18-13-25-331-009

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must be present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 21-027746.

Jenna M. Rogers  
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
One East Wacker,  
Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Telephone: 312-651-6700  
Fax: 614-220-5613  
Attorney. No.: 6308109  
Email: StateEFiling@manleydeas.com  
I3215487

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 22 & 29, 2023)  
434222

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## A generous donation from and for the community

Members of the 100 Women Who Care of Stephenson County group presented the Salvation Army with a donation of \$10,000. The money will be used to support the launch of a new delivery program starting this spring. Pictured here are (from left to right) Amy Brinkmeier, Julie Hilliger, Cal Wescott (Salvation Army Board), Sara Peska, Capt. Lisa Thorson, Capt. Tim Thorson, Julie Wenzel, Sarah Knapp, Susan Youngblut, and Christy Nausner.

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## INTEGRITY BUILDERS

434139

IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT FOR THE  
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL  
CIRCUIT  
STEPHENSON COUNTY  
- FREEPORT ILLINOIS  
Fifth Third Bank, National  
Association  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Lana R. Dagle; Unknown  
Owners and Non-Record  
Claimants  
Defendants.

Case No. 2022FC42  
315 East Jefferson,  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Judge David M. Olson

NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE is  
hereby given that pursuant  
to a Judgment of Foreclosure  
and Sale entered in  
the above entitled cause on  
February 9, 2023, Steven  
M. Stovall will on April

20, 2023, at the hour of  
9:30AM at the Stephen-  
son County Sheriff's Of-  
fice, Stephenson County  
Courthouse, 15 North Ga-  
lena Avenue, Freeport, IL  
61032, sell to the highest  
bidder for cash, the follow-  
ing described mortgaged  
real estate:

Commonly known as  
315 East Jefferson, Free-  
port, IL 61032

Parcel Number(s): 18-  
19-06-231-004

The real estate is im-  
proved with a Single Fam-  
ily Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must  
present, at the time of sale,  
a cashier's or certified  
check for 10% of the suc-  
cessful bid amount. The  
balance of the successful  
bid shall be paid within  
24 hours, by similar funds.  
The subject property is of-  
fered for sale without any  
representation as to quali-  
ty or quantity of title and  
without recourse to Plain-  
tiff and in "AS IS" con-  
dition. The sale is further  
subject to confirmation by  
the Court. The property  
will NOT be open for in-  
spection.

If this property is a con-  
dominium unit, the pur-  
chaser of the unit at the  
foreclosure sale, other  
than the mortgagee shall  
pay the assessments and  
the legal fees required by  
the Condominium Prop-  
erty Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)  
(1) and (g)(4).

For information call  
Plaintiff's Attorney, Man-  
ley Deas Kochalski LLC,  
One East Wacker, Suite  
1250, Chicago, IL 60601.  
Phone number: 312-651-  
6700. Attorney file num-  
ber:

22-018016.  
Zachariah L. Manchester  
MANLEY DEAS  
KOCHALSKI LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
One East Wacker,  
Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Telephone: 312-651-6700  
Fax: 614-220-5613  
Attorney No.: 6303885  
Email: StateEFiling@  
manleydeas.com  
I3215485

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 22 & 29, 2023)  
434220

**ANNUAL TOWN  
MEETING  
NOTICE IS HEREBY  
GIVEN**

To the legal residents of

the Town of Erin in the  
County of Stephenson and  
State of Illinois, that the  
ANNUAL MEETING of  
said Town will take place  
on **Tuesday, April 11,  
2023, being the second  
Tuesday of said month.**

The Town meeting for  
the transaction of mis-  
cellaneous business of  
said Town will be held at  
the hour of 7:00 o'clock  
P.M. on said day at Erin  
Township Building, 2699  
N. Unity Rd., Lena and a  
Moderator having been  
elected, will proceed to  
hear and consider reports  
of officers and decide on  
such measures as may in  
pursuance of law, come  
before the meeting; and  
especially to consider  
and decide the following:  
Agenda - 1. Elect a Mod-  
erator & Administer Oath  
of Office; 2. Approve Min-  
utes from 2022 Annual  
Town Meeting; 3. Report  
of Officers Financial Re-  
ports & Statements; 4. Au-  
thorize Funds Transfer; 5.  
Open Forum; 6. Adjourn-  
ment.

Dated at Eleroy, this 9th  
day of March, 2023.

Ryan A. Pickard  
Erin Town Clerk

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 2023)

434281

#### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION of 2023-2024

##### e-Learning Program

The Board of Education  
for Stockton Communi-  
ty Unit School District  
#206 is looking to adopt  
an e-Learning program  
district-wide that shall per-  
mit students' instruction to  
be received electronically  
while students are not  
physically present in lieu  
of the district's scheduled  
emergency days.

The Board of Educa-  
tion will conduct a public  
hearing on the e-Learning  
program at 6:20 p.m. on  
March 20, 2023, at Stock-  
ton Junior High School  
Conference Room at 500  
N. Rush St., Stockton, IL.

By: James Bunting  
Superintendent

(Published in  
The Scoop Today  
March 15, 2023)

434293

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## help wanted

### HELP WANTED

Lena-Winslow Elementary School currently has two immediate openings for Paraprofessionals for the 2022-2023 school year. Paraprofessional Certification is required.

Please send letter of interest and credentials to Mr. Mark Kuehl, Principal, Lena Winslow Elementary, 401 Fremont St, Lena, IL 61048. Applications accepted until positions are filled.

433887

### Sales/Marketing

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Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com

Fax: (262) 725-6844

392953

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## for sale

### Announcements

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**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE** All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. **EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

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## transportation

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Rock Valley Publishing, FREE Ad,  
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Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price


Ads will not be accepted without the following information. Only one free ad per month.

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



# •Kitchen (Continued from page 11)

## Irish Soda Bread

To celebrate the "green" theme, there has to be a soda bread recipe. You can add dried cranberries or apricots or nuts; some people like it with raisins. I like it plain with jam. Enjoy this traditional soda bread.

2 C. flour  
2 T. brown sugar  
1 t. baking powder  
1 t. baking soda  
½ t. salt  
3 T. cold butter, cubed  
2 eggs, room temperature, divided use  
¾ C. buttermilk  
1/3 C. raisins  
Preheat the oven to 375. Whisk together the flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In another bowl, whisk together 1 egg and buttermilk. Add to flour mixture and stir just until moistened. Stir in raisins. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead gently 6 to 8 minutes. Shape into a 6½ inch round loaf. Whisk remaining egg, brush over the top. Bake until golden brown, 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from pan to wire rack. Serve warm.

## Lime Poke Cake

If you have read any of my previous columns, you know I like poke cakes. I had one in my column several years ago, but this one is just a little different. The buttermilk will help with the moistness. If you are buying green Jell-O for the salad, you might as well pick up an extra one for this cake. I like that the topping isn't frosting, but it is just as delicious.

1 C. unsalted butter, plus more for greasing pan  
2½ C. flour  
½ t. baking powder  
½ t. baking soda  
½ t. salt  
1¼ C. buttermilk well shaken

2 t. vanilla extra  
2 C. sugar  
3 eggs, lightly beaten  
3 oz. box of lime gelatin

**Topping**  
2 C. heavy cream, cold  
1 T. sugar  
2 t. vanilla

Green sanding sugar

Position oven rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat to 350. Butter the bottom and sides of a 9 x 13 pan. Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl; set aside. Whisk the buttermilk and vanilla in a spouted measuring cup; set aside.

Beat the sugar and butter in a stand mixer until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. With the mixer still running on medium, slowly add the eggs and beat until fully incorporated. Reduce the speed to the lowest setting. Add 1/3 of the flour mixture and then ½ of the buttermilk mixture, beating until incorporated, then ½ of the remaining flour mixture repeating the incorporation; then add the remaining buttermilk mixture and the remaining flour mixture. Scrape down the sides and beat until well mixed.

Spread the batter into the prepared pan. Bake until golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center of the cake, about 30 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through. Let cool for 30 minutes in the pan. Use a large fork to poke holes an inch apart in the top all the way through the cake.

Bring 1 C. water to a boil; pour over the gelatin in a medium bowl and stir until completely dissolved, about 2 minutes. Stir in ½ C. cold water. Pour the mixture evenly over the cooled cake. Refrigerate for 2 hours. Put a large bowl for whipping cream in the refrigerator.

Remove the cake from the refrigerator. Whip the cream with the granulated sugar and vanilla in the chilled bowl until fluffy. Spread it over the cake and sprinkle the sanding sugar on top. Slice and serve. Store cake in

## Final Thoughts

We now are in Daylight Saving Time. My body hates this change, and there are now medical studies that say it is a hard adjustment for a lot of people. Every year we hear about legislators debating about not hav-

ing time changes, and they have started again. If I had to make a bet, there probably won't be any action on this change again. Spring breaks for schools are in full swing. Various schools are having them at different times. I know people who don't like to shop these next two weeks because there are so many kids and parents in the stores. My life doesn't track for these things.

Hats off to the Le-Win FFA. I got the most delicious straw-

berries from their sale. I also ordered my favorite Butter Braids from the music department. It was happy eating and sharing at my house this past week with the strawberries, and I look forward to the tasty Butter Braids.

I also got my taxes done this past week. I can check that off my winter list and get my office cleaned up and papers packed away. March seems to be "marching" along.

We continue to offer some

Lenten meatless recipes. Sullivan's Foods has a wonderful Lenten selection on Fridays of seafood. They have several offerings besides their regular cod. The PBS Channel talked about the traditional fish fries as a Wisconsin staple that started during Lent. In many parts of the country, this time of year is the only offering of Friday Fish Fries. We in the Midwest know a good thing because we have them all year long! Just a reminder that the Lena Evan-

gelical Free Church continues to offer their Lenten Musical services on Wednesdays.

It is also time to start thinking about Easter, so if you have some favorites or some new Easter recipes, we would like to see them. If you have any recipes that you would like to share with us, you can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, *The Shopper's Guide* at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

## REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS  
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust  
PLAINTIFF  
Vs.  
Melanie Lewin; et. al.  
DEFENDANTS

No. 2022FC36  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 12/20/2022, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on April 20, 2023 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse

15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PIN 18-13-36-108-017  
Improved with Single Family Home  
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:  
1486 Winter Drive  
Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgag-

ees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-22-03879. I3214900

(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
March 8, 15 & 22, 2023)  
433791

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT ILLINOIS  
Fifth Third Bank, National Association  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Lana R. Dagel; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants  
Defendants.  
Case No. 2022FC42  
315 East Jefferson,  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Judge David M. Olson  
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on Feb-

ruary 9, 2023, Steven M. Stovall will on April 20, 2023, at the hour of 9:30AM at the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office, Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Lot 2 in Block 6 in Chas. E. Meyer Addition to the City of Freeport. Commonly known as 315 East Jefferson, Freeport, IL 61032  
Parcel Number(s): 18-19-06-231-004

The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 22-018016. Zachariah L. Manchester  
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
One East Wacker, Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Telephone: 312-651-6700  
Fax: 614-220-5613  
Attorney. No.: 6303885  
Email:  
StateEFiling@manleydeas.com  
I3215485

(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
March 15, 22 & 29, 2023)  
434221

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT ILLINOIS  
AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Angela M. Figueroa  
Defendants.  
Case No. 2022FC1  
708 North Hunt Avenue,  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Judge David M. Olson  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above entitled cause on June 21, 2022, Steven M. Stovall will on April 20, 2023, at the hour of 9:30AM at the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office, Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
Commonly known as 708 North Hunt Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032  
Parcel Number(s): 18-13-25-331-009  
The real estate is improved with a Single Family Residence.  
Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. The property will NOT be open for inspection.  
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than the mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).  
For information call Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski LLC, One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601. Phone number: 312-651-6700. Attorney file number: 21-027746.  
Jenna M. Rogers  
MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
One East Wacker, Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Telephone: 312-651-6700  
Fax: 614-220-5613  
Attorney. No.: 6308109  
Email:  
StateEFiling@manleydeas.com  
I3215487  
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March 15, 22 & 29, 2023)  
434223

**— PUBLIC NOTICE —**

**NOTICE - ACCEPTING MOWING BIDS**

We are now accepting bids for mowing the Elizabeth Cemetery & Old Log Church.

***Bids should be per mowing.***

***Deadline to submit bids is March 31, 2023.***

Any questions call Jeff Spoerl - (815) 858-4045.

Submit bids to: Candis Albrecht,  
313 Orange St., Elizabeth, IL 61028  
(Liability Insurance is required)

433886



# Pritzker touts \$70 million plan for addressing teacher shortage

Grant program targets vacancies in 170 school districts accounting for 80 percent of vacancies

By Nika Schoonover

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker recently highlighted a proposed grant program that would direct \$70 million per year over the next three years to school districts facing the greatest teacher shortages. The Teacher Pipeline Grant Program, which Pritzker included in his budget proposal to lawmakers, would target vacancies in 170 school districts that account for 80 percent of all unfilled teaching positions in Illinois. The districts would have "maximum flexibility" to decide how the funds are disbursed, according to a

news release.

Funds could be used for signing bonuses, housing stipends, down-payment assistance and providing residencies or apprenticeships, among other hiring incentives. Districts may also use the funding to reimburse tuition and fees or to provide teaching supplies, coaching and additional school support.

"The result will be that over 870,000 Illinois students will see an improved teacher-student ratio, a critical factor in classroom success," Pritzker said at a news conference. "Our collective goals are to

make sure we have enough great teachers in every classroom."

The governor touted some of his earlier accomplishments aimed at improving the teaching workforce, including increasing the teacher minimum wage, increasing scholarships and grants for aspiring teachers, and reducing the reinstatement fees for a lapsed educator license.

Pritzker also made a call to other teachers in surrounding states to move to Illinois. "We have surrounding states where teachers are paid less than teachers in the state of Illinois and I want to formally

invite every teacher in every state surrounding us to jump over the border," Pritzker said, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

He was joined by newly appointed State Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders, a former superintendent for Elgin Area School District U46, the second largest school district in Illinois. Sanders pointed to Illinois State Board of Education data that shows Illinois schools reported 3,558 unfilled teaching positions as of October 2022.

"These shortages don't just affect students equally. These vacancies are concen-

trated in bilingual education, special education and STEM," Sanders said. "This is why the teacher pipeline program will target districts with the resources they need to solve locally the challenges they have for recruitment and retention and remove barriers preventing aspiring educators from pursuing a calling to teaching."

In addition to the grant program, ISBE will also spend \$6 million in federal funds to hire a multimedia advertising and marketing firm to create a statewide teacher recruitment campaign. The governor has spent several recent news conferences publicizing his plans on education issues, including his proposed "Smart Start" program to expand access to preschool and child care throughout the

state. In the weeks following his budget address, he visited Springfield, Rockford, East St. Louis, Chicago, Mount Vernon, Chicago, Peoria and Macomb to rally support for the plan.

"When I came into office, the state of Illinois was providing nearly the lowest percentage of school funding for K-12 and P-12," Pritzker said. "That was four years ago. But during the last four years, with the General Assembly's help, we've addressed this woeful underfunding of K-12 education with an increase of more than \$1.5 billion from the state of Illinois."

His proposed plan calls for \$250 million to fund the first year of Smart Start and an additional \$350 million aimed at the Evidence Based Funding formula.

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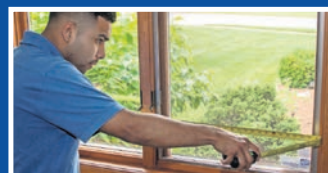


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## • Baseball

(Continued from front page)

selection, but you can find him on the mound and around the infield as well.

Lexton Endress also returns for his junior campaign as a catcher. Endress and Perdue are both expected to play some innings on the mound, as well, with Plager calling them the team's "second and third pitchers." This trio will lead the way for the Wolves, but they are deep with talent around them.

In total, Pearl City will have four seniors on the roster, including Brinkmeier and Perdue. The Wolves also return senior Jon Dinderman, and Cade Monks is an expected newcomer this season. Behind them, the Wolves have a number of guys to be excited about. The hope is that those numbers will create a competitive environment to improve the squad.

Plager expects their overall numbers to be their biggest strength. "We have 26 guys out this year. There's a few incoming freshman that have the skills to compete at the Varsity level. I think that will push some guys to compete for starting roles and make us better as a team," Plager shared.

Pearl City has the pieces in

their lineup, but Plager says they will have to find a way to get better results in 2023. "We need to be able to put the ball in play better and put pressure on the opposing defense. Last year, we struck out way too many times leaving runners on and not scoring enough runs. Our pitchers and defense will keep us in every game, but we need to be able to score more than three runs to give them a chance to pitch with a lead," the third-year head coach said.

The Wolves will have to compete in a tough NUIC-East, however. Plager shared, "I think Lena will be up at the top of the conference, along with us. Lena has always been able to hit, and they return multiple All-Conference guys from last year's Regional Championship team. Dakota will also be in the mix with their pitching and guys they return." One thing is for sure, if you ask coaches around the NUIC, they all mention Pearl City as one of the top teams to look out for. With Brinkmeier and Perdue leading the way, it appears the sky is the limit for the 2023 Wolves.

Pearl City is scheduled to play host to the Warren-Stockton Warhawks on Wednesday, March 15.

## • Plant

(Continued from front page)

To register for this club please visit <https://go.illinois.edu/forestryclub>. The cost is \$5 per youth. For more infor-

mation contact University of Illinois Extension- Stephenson County, (815)235-4125, and ask for Brenda.



[www.windowworldrockford.com](http://www.windowworldrockford.com)

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm; Sat 9:00 am-Noon



\*SEE OUR WEBSITE OR A TEAM MEMBER FOR DETAILS

